

Rep. Slaughter Highlights SUNY Brockport Center, Discusses Future of Great Lakes Region Need for Federal Funding of Great Lakes Projects Is Also Addressed

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today joined the president of SUNY Brockport, Dr. John R. Halstead, and Dr. Joseph Makarewicz, the Director of Brockport's Environmental Science and Biology Department, at an event celebrating the University's planned Great Lakes center. The Congresswoman also took a tour of Brockport's environmental science and biology facilities, and discussed her continued work on behalf of the Great Lakes region.

"We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to save this national treasure," Rep. Slaughter said. **"I've worked to get funding for Brockport's Great Lakes center because it is going to be at the front lines of the fight to save Lake Ontario and the environment of our entire region."**

"The commitment shown locally by the citizens of Western New York must be met by an equal federal commitment to solving this problem," Rep. Slaughter continued. **"President Bush commissioned a study, and now he has to fund its recommendations in full."**

"The people with the most direct connection to our Great Lakes know that the

health of this resource should be a national priority," Rep. Slaughter said. "I will continue using my position as Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force to ensure that the President gets the message."

BACKGROUND

Rep. Slaughter has worked to secure \$300,000 in federal funds for Brockport's planned Great Lakes research and educational center, to be constructed at the Port of Rochester. The center, which will also include an aquarium, will have a final price tag of \$7 million, and will focus on studying and protecting the resources of Lake Ontario and beyond.

As Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, Ms. Slaughter has fought to secure the funding necessary to complete critical Great Lakes environmental cleanup and resuscitation efforts. She has also used her leadership position in Congress to make the defense of the Great Lakes a true national priority.

Despite the fact that President Bush commissioned a study of the Great Lakes region, his proposed 2007 federal budget does not make the investment in the Lakes that the study's authors recommended. In addition, the budget cuts nearly 200 million dollars from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which helps communities in Upstate New York to updating their sewer systems, and under-funds the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which finances the clean-up of

our most polluted harbors and waters. Furthermore, the Army Corps of Engineers' work in the region is severely cut by the budget, and in some cases, is eliminated entirely.